

Remarks**Claim Objections**

Examiner has objected to the use of the word "substantially" in claims 7 and 8. Applicant respectfully finds this objection to be unduly harsh in the light of an abundance of issued patent specifications which use the term "substantially" in the same manner. Applicants cite US 6,856,214, US 6,785,535, US 6,745,051 and US 6,693,603 as examples of recently issued patents which use this term in claim 1, the latter two cases also using the term in relation to antennas. Furthermore, given the manner in which the term is used in these claims, it is submitted that nothing is indefinite. Reconsideration of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 8 has been amended to refer to "said pair" to provide proper antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-9 and 11-14 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) in view of *Rudrapatna* (US 6,801,790). Reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1, as amended, recites that the combiner is arranged to couple inputs from the diverse, directional, beams to two or more receive chains; and that there are more antenna elements than receive chains.

Rudrapatna shows only an antenna array and does not mention receive chains at all, nor does it teach the particularly advantageous relationship between the number of antenna elements and receive chains now recited in claim 1. There is nothing in *Rudrapatna* to suggest or motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at what is now claimed.

Claims 2-8 are dependent upon claim 1 and are considered to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Independent Claims 11 and 13 have been amended in a

similar manner to Claim 1 and are also considered to be allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

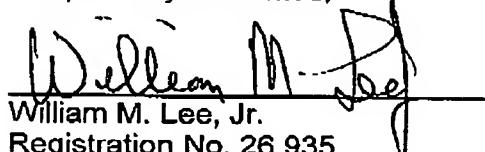
Examiner rejects claim 10 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Rudrapatna*.

As claim 10 is dependent upon amended claim 1, the merits of which have been reasoned above, claim 10 is also considered to be allowable.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims pending in this application are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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